

of the same time noticed it to be abundant on the actual summit of Mount Canigou, one of the higher Pyrenees, where the conditions were almost arctic, and it was nearly the only insect to be found."

I now solicit material from all parts of the British Isles, and from as varied a habitat as possible, *e.g.*, from the base of cliffs around our coasts; from moors and the tops of mountains; from damp situations, from exceptionally dry places, from under stones in rich soil and gardens, and from greenhouses, moles' and ants' nests, etc. They should be collected into tubes of say 50 to 60 % alcohol, and as the cerci break off very readily the tube should not be allowed to be only partly full of liquid, thus causing the contents to be knocked about, but *quite* full, and, though extravagant, this is important, *please put one insect in one tube.*

I append my address, and shall be pleased to identify and report upon collections as early as circumstances permit, and to give any advice or suggestions.

Penshaw Lodge,
Penshaw, Co. Durham:
July 28th, 1915.

A SECOND BRITISH SPECIES OF *PLASTOSCIARA*.

BY F. W. EDWARDS, B.A., F.E.S.

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In a recent number of this periodical (May, 1915) I described, under the name *Plastosciara pernitida*, a fly new to science, the first of its genus to be found in this country. Hardly had this description appeared in print when I received from Mons. D. Keilin, of the Quick Laboratory, Cambridge, specimens of another British representative of the same genus, which also proves to be new to science. It differs from its congeners in size, coloration, and in the structure of the male forceps, and may be described in the following terms:—

PLASTOSCIARA KEILINI, *sp. n.*

Head black. *Antennae* alike in both sexes, not quite twice as long as the thorax; first joint of flagellum about half as long again as broad, next four joints about as broad as long, remaining joints about one-sixth longer than broad, except the last joint, which is about the same length as the first; hairs uniformly distributed, not quite so long as the width of the joints. *Palpi* short,

yellowish, two-jointed in both sexes. *Thorax* rather dark brownish, with a slight reddish tinge; membrane between mesonotum and pleurae whitish. Mesonotum with two longitudinal lines of hair, scutellum with eight or nine bristly hairs round its margin. *Abdomen* long and cylindrical in the female, shorter in the male, brownish with the membranous areas whitish; male hypopygium rather broad, its claspers large, thick, nearly cylindrical, and a little less than twice as long as broad, truncate at the tip, with one large spine at the inner apical angle. *Legs* uniformly brownish; tarsi of front and middle legs slightly longer, those of the hind legs as long as the tibiae; no combs of spines or bristles at tips of tibiae. *Wings* with a very slight brownish tinge, fully developed in both sexes, but a little shorter in the male. R_1 reaching costa considerably before the fork of M ; R_s arising about the middle of R_1 , but its basal section (the "cross-vein") is indistinct; tip of M_3 noticeably nearer the apex of the wing than that of R_s ; S_c nearly half as long as R_1 ; costa extending five-sixths of the distance from tip of R_s to tip of M_{1+2} ; no bristles on M or C_u . *Halteres* brownish yellow.

Length: ♂ body, 2 mm., ♂ wing, 1.6 mm. ♀ body, 2.7-3 mm., ♀ wing, 2.3-2.5 mm.

Type presented to the British Museum by Mons. Keilin.

Mr. W. R. Thompson found the larva of this species in large numbers in rotten wood, at Barton Mills, Cambs., on April 20th of this year. In Mons. Keilin's keeping, they pupated about May 1st, and adults hatched on May 6th and 7th; on May 8th all the females had laid fertile eggs, and they died on that day, the males surviving three days longer.

He is describing the larva in his forthcoming work. It is of special interest, he informs me, in possessing a pair of mandibular glands, which are atrophied in nearly all *Diptera*.

August 3rd, 1915.

The tarsi of Homalota (Meotica) exilis Er.—In confirmation of Dr. Sharp's statement in the July number of the Ent. Mo. Mag., that the anterior tarsi of this species are 5-jointed, I may say that in 1908 I made the same discovery, and to make the matter more certain asked my friend Mr. J. H. Keys to prepare some microscopic slides of the tarsi mounted in balsam; these were quite conclusive. I had shortly before this received from Mr. de la Garde a small narrow form which I thought might be specifically distinct from *exilis*, but Capt. Deville, to whom I sent the specimens, returned them as a small narrow form of the latter.—E. A. NEWBERY, 13, Oppidans Road, N.W.: July 17th, 1915.